2016 CENSUS HIGHLIGHTS

Ministry of Finance ***Fact Sheet 14***

Ontario

Commuting to Work

This factsheet looks at data on commuting to work released by Statistics Canada as part of the 2016 Census.

More Ontarians with No Fixed Workplace

- The 2016 Census revealed that the share of Ontarians with a usual place of work reached 81.0 per cent, down from 85.5 per cent in 1996. There was a corresponding increase in people with no fixed workplace, from 6.9 per cent in 1996 to 11.1 per cent in 2016.
- The share of people working from home remained stable, at 7.3 per cent.

Public Transit Use Rising among Commuters

- In 2016, 77.9 per cent of Ontario commuters used private vehicles (car, truck or van) to go to work, down from 79.9 per cent in 1996. Within this group, 84.2 per cent drove alone and 15.8 per cent carpooled.
- 14.6 per cent of commuters used public transit for the longest part of their trip, up from 12.2 per cent in 1996. Of transit users, 54.7 per cent commuted by bus, 30.9 per cent by subway or elevated rail, and 14.4 per cent by commuter train, light rail, streetcar or ferry.
- About 5.3 per cent of Ontario commuters walked to work down from 6.1 per cent in 1996. Finally, 1.2 per cent cycled, up slightly from 1.0 per cent 20 years earlier.

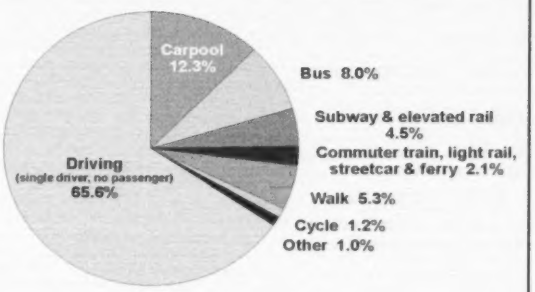
High Use of Non-Auto Transportation in Large Cities

- Among Canadian Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs), Toronto commuters were most likely (31.0%) to walk, cycle or use public transit to get to work, followed by those in Montreal (29.5%) and Vancouver (29.4%).
- Nationally, Toronto had the highest share of its commuters using subway and elevated rail to get to work, at 9.9 per cent. Ottawa-Gatineau had the highest share of bus commuters in the country at 18.1 per cent. Victoria had the highest share of commuters walking (10.3%) and cycling (6.6%) to work.
- In Ontario, the highest proportion of carpoolers was in Barrie (14.5%), and the lowest was in Windsor (10.8%).

More People Walk to Work in Smaller Ontario CMAs

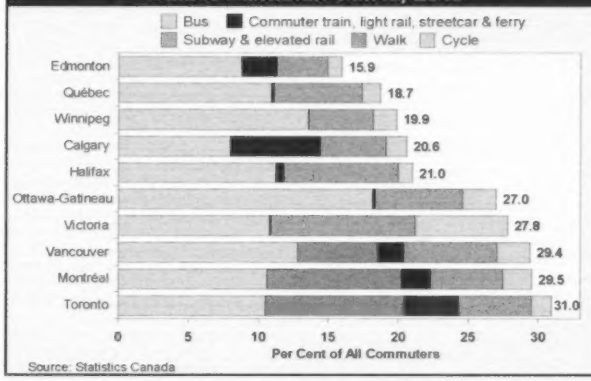
- Toronto (68.0%) and the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA (69.8%) had the lowest shares of people using a car, truck or van to get to work in Ontario. The proportion of drivers was highest in Windsor (91.5%) and Brantford (91.4%).
- In smaller CMAs, the share of people walking to work was often larger than the share of transit users.
- Kingston had the highest share of walking commuters (7.6%) and Ottawa-Gatineau the highest share of cyclists (2.5%).

Modes of Transportation to Work, Ontario, 2016



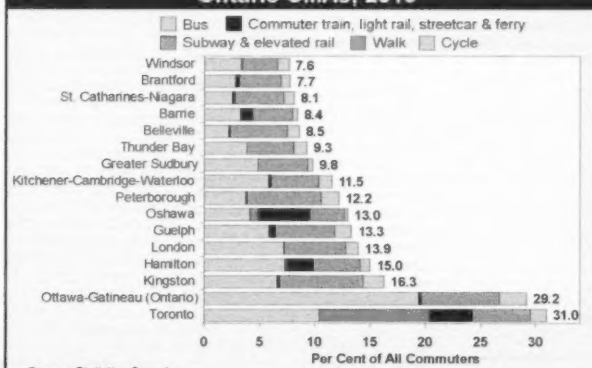
Source: Statistics Canada

Public Transit & Active Transportation Select Canadian CMAs, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada

Public Transit & Active Transportation Ontario CMAs, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada

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Office of Economic Policy
Labour Economics Branch

Ontarians have the Longest Commutes in Canada

- In 2016, Canadians commuters spent an average of 26.2 minutes travelling to work, practically the same amount of time on average as in the United States (26.6 minutes).
- Ontarians had a slightly longer average commute of 28.8 minutes, the longest among provinces, and an increase from 27.6 minutes in 2011 (first time this data was collected). The shortest average commute was in Prince Edward Island (18.0 minutes).
- The increase in average commute time in Ontario since 2011 is attributable to longer travel time for those using public transit.

One in Ten Commuters Travel for Over an Hour

- About one quarter of Ontarians had a commute of less than 15 minutes (24.0%), and close to a third (32.2%) travelled between 15 and 29 minutes to get to work. Another 21.3 per cent travelled for 30 to 44 minutes.
- Longer commutes of over 45 minutes were the lot of less than one Ontarian out of 5. About 10.1 per cent travelled between 45 and 59 minutes to work, while 12.4 per cent commuted for over one hour.

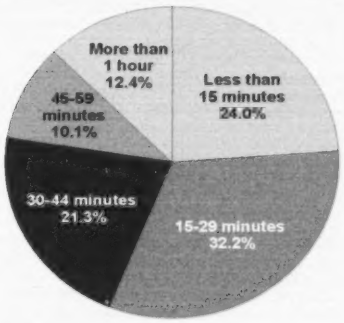
Public Transit Commutes Taking More Time

- Public transit travel times include the time required to walk to the bus stop, subway or train station, as well as waiting times.
- In 2016, Ontarians using train, light rail and streetcar to get to work had the longest average commutes at 60.1 minutes, up from 57.4 minutes in 2011, the most significant duration increase by mode of transportation.
- Subway and elevated rail commuters also saw their travel time rise from 47.4 minutes in 2011 to 49.2 minutes in 2016, along with bus commuters (from 42.3 to 44.5 minutes).
- By contrast, those traveling by private vehicle, walking and cycling saw smaller increases in commute times over the 2011-2016 period. Average commute times rose from 25.7 to 26.3 minutes for those using a car, truck or van, from 13.6 to 14.4 minutes for those walking, and from 20.2 to 20.9 minutes for those cycling to work.

Toronto: Longest Travel Times to Work in Canada

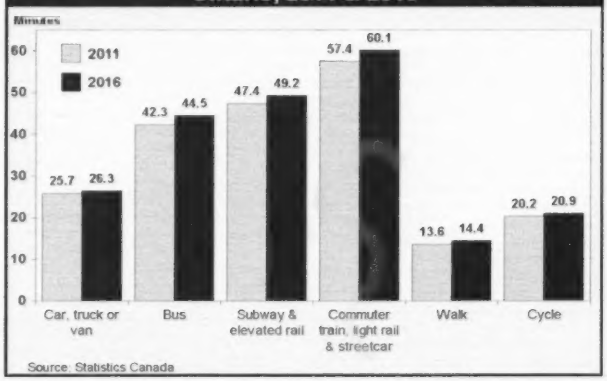
- Among Canadian CMAs, the longest average travel times to work were in Toronto at 34.0 minutes. Comparatively for large American metropolitan areas, average travel time to work in New York was 34.7 minutes, while the average commute in Washington was 32.8 minutes.
- Montreal (30.0 minutes) and Vancouver (29.7) were also Canadian CMAs with long commutes.
- Commuters in Saguenay (17.7 minutes) and Thunder Bay (17.5) had the shortest average travel times.

Travel Time to Work, Ontario, 2016



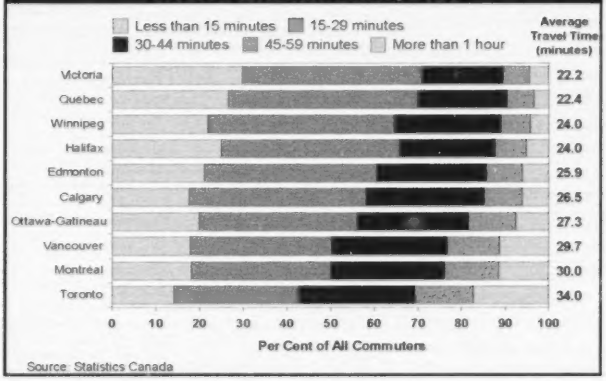
Source: Statistics Canada

Average Commute Time by Mode of Transportation Ontario, 2011 & 2016



Source: Statistics Canada

Travel Time to Work Select Canadian CMAs, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada

Thunder Bay: Fastest Commutes

- Within Ontario, commuters in the CMAs of Toronto (34.0 minutes), Oshawa (33.5) and Barrie (30.7) had the longest average commutes.
- The shortest average commutes were in Thunder Bay (17.5 minutes), Windsor (18.9) and Belleville (19.7).
- Average travel times do not reflect the experience of all commuters. For some, travel times are much longer.
- In Canada, 18.2 per cent of commuters took 45 minutes or more to get to work. Commuters in the Greater Toronto Area were much more likely to be in this group.
- In 2016, 31.5 per cent of commuters in Oshawa, 30.8 per cent of those in Toronto and 27.7 per cent of those in Barrie spent 45 minutes or more travelling to work.
- While 87.0 per cent of commuters in the Thunder Bay CMA travelled 29 minutes or less to work, this was the experience of only 42.8 per cent of Toronto commuters.

Many Oshawa Commuters Work in Toronto

- Among the eight CMAs of the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH), with the exception of Toronto (3%), St. Catharines-Niagara had the lowest proportion of commuters going to a workplace outside of its CMA boundaries, at 13 per cent, followed by Peterborough (16%) and Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo (17%).
- By contrast, 46 per cent of Oshawa's commuters went to work outside the CMA. The Barrie (39%) and Brantford (33%) CMAs also had significant shares of residents commuting outside their boundaries.
- Of the eight CMAs of the GGH, Oshawa had the highest share of residents commuting to the Toronto CMA for work, at 42 per cent. Resident of the Barrie (29%) and Hamilton (22%) CMAs also had high propensities of commuting to the Toronto CMA for work.

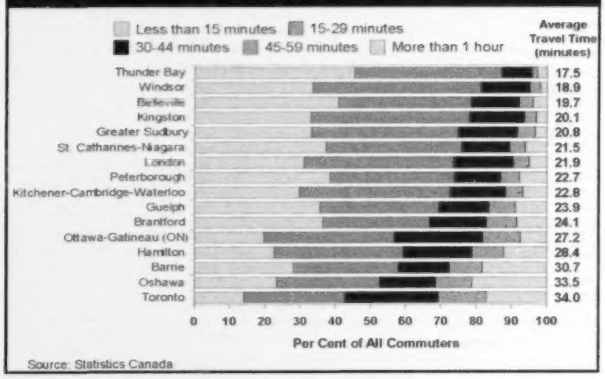
Most Commuters Leave Home Before 8 am

- About a quarter of Ontario commuters leave before 7 am. 6.8 per cent leave home for work between 5:00 and 5:59 am, and 17.1 per cent leave between 6:00 and 6:59 am.
- Roughly half of Ontarians leave for work between 7:00 and 8:59am, while 28.1 per cent leave during the rest of the day or at night (between 9:00am and 4:59 am).

Commuters with Long Travel Times Leave Home Early

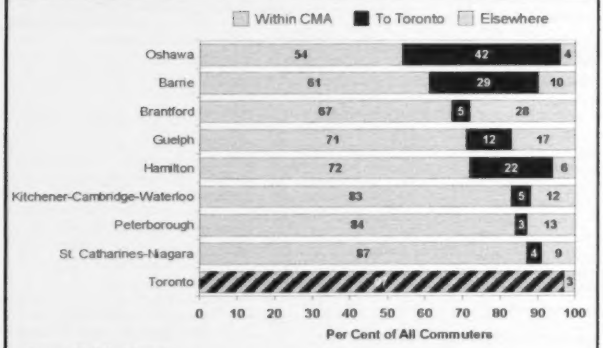
- Ontario commuters leaving home between 5:00 and 5:59 am had the longest travel times, averaging 36.9 minutes, followed by people leaving between 6:00 and 6:59 am at 32.7 minutes.
- People leaving home in late morning (between 9:00 and 11:59 am) had the shortest commute times, averaging 23.8 minutes.

Travel Time to Work, Ontario CMAs, 2016



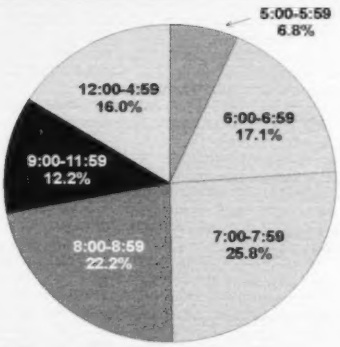
Source: Statistics Canada

2016 Work Commuting Patterns, Greater Golden Horseshoe


Within CMA
To Toronto
Elsewhere
Oshawa 54 42 4
Barrie 61 29 10
Brantford 67 5 28
Guelph 71 12 17
Hamilton 72 22 6
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo 83 5 12
Peterborough 84 3 13
St. Catharines-Niagara 87 4 9
Toronto 3
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
Per Cent of All Commuters

Source: Statistics Canada

Time Leaving Home for Work, Ontario, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada

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